

Finding of No Significant Impact
Oberbillig Land Acquisition
Environmental Assessment ID-110-2008-EA-277

I have reviewed the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) for significance (40 CFR 1508.27) and have determined the actions analyzed in EA #ID-110-2008-EA-277 would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This finding was made by considering both the context and intensity of the potential effects, as described in the above EA, using the following factors defining significance:

1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

EA #ID-110-2008-EA-277 documents that the proposed action (title transfer) would entail no direct environmental impacts. However, impacts associated with development activities that might occur if the parcel is not acquired would occur to vegetation, soils, and wildlife populations and/or their habitat. Impacts, beneficial or adverse, were identified or are expected to occur to other resources or values as a result of implementing the proposed action, but they would not be considered significant.

2) The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.

No public health and safety issues were identified in EA #ID-110-2008-EA-277.

3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

No unique characteristics of the assessment area were identified. No cultural resources, parklands, prime farmlands, wetlands, or wild and scenic rivers are found within the area. The parcel lies two miles east of Military Reserve and two miles north east of Table Rock. The parcel is in the Boise Front ACEC. Acquisition of the parcels would provide opportunities to meet the management goals of the ACEC.

4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

The scoping and NEPA processes identified no controversy or disagreement concerning effects on the quality of the human environment.

5) The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

No highly uncertain effects to the human environment or effects that involve unique or unknown risks were identified in the EA. Land acquisitions by public entities in the Boise foothills have generally been viewed as positive actions.

6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

Implementation of the proposed action would neither establish a precedent nor trigger other actions. Activities authorized by this decision would not be connected to other future actions.

7) Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

EA #ID-110-2008-EA-277 identified no known significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts associated with implementation of the proposed action.

8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

EA #ID-110-2008-EA-277 showed that the proposed land acquisition would not result in adverse effects to natural, scientific, cultural, or historic resources.

9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

EA #ID-110-2008-EA-277 showed that no threatened, endangered, or candidate plants, animals, or their habitat would be adversely affected.

10) Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, and local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

The proposed action analyzed in EA #ID-110-2008-EA-277 is consistent and compatible with all known Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

/s/ Rosemary Thomas
Four Rivers Field Manager

Date